

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) An address notification method comprising, upon receiving a query about an address of a first apparatus from a second apparatus, sending a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus, and notifying the second apparatus of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus,

wherein the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, an expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

20. (New) The address notification method according to Claim 1, further comprising a test step of conducting a connection test with the first apparatus using the address of the first apparatus,

wherein before a result of the connection test in the test step has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, the expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus.

21. (New) The address notification method according to Claim 2, wherein in the test step, a connection test with the first apparatus is conducted using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.

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22. (New) A computer program stored in a memory, wherein the computer program comprising, upon receiving a query about an address of a first apparatus from a second apparatus, sending a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus, and notifying the second apparatus of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus,

wherein the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, an expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

23. (New) The computer program according to Claim 4, further comprising a test step of conducting a connection test with the first apparatus using the address of the first apparatus,

wherein before a result of the connection test in the test step has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, the expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus.

24. (New) The computer program according to Claim 5, wherein in the test step, a connection test with the first apparatus is conducted using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.

25. (New) An address notification apparatus comprising:
connecting means for connecting a network; and

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notifying means for notifying a second apparatus of an address of a first apparatus upon reception of a query about the address of the first apparatus from the second apparatus via the network connected by the connecting means,

wherein the notifying means sends a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus, and notifies the second apparatus of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, an expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

26. (New) The address notification apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the notifying means conducts a connection test with the first apparatus using the address of the first apparatus, and

before a result of the connection test has been obtained, the notifying means notifies the second apparatus of, as the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, the expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus.

27. (New) The address notification apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the notifying means conducts a connection test with the first apparatus using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.